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INSIGHTS: THE GENEVA CONFERENCE

by Asher Neudorfer

Excerpts reprinted from *The Canadian Jewish Outlook*, November, 1984.

We stood in the cavernous halls of the United Nations Palais de Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, where royalty, presidents and dictators had walked before us. Four of us, two Israeli Jews and two Palestinians were enjoying a moment's break in the U.N.-sponsored conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) on the question of Palestine.

To the untrained eye we were but small actors against the backdrop of Middle Eastern tragedy. Yet as we all shook hands and resumed our seats we felt part of an historic movement. A movement which must end in peace because the alternative is too horrendous to contemplate. These thoughts were running through our minds; were the bonds of solidarity we were building strong enough to face the violence and prejudice that others would surely throw against us?

Over one hundred NGOs, and 26 experts from the legal and governmental sectors attended. They were drawn from over 30 countries, encompassing Western and Eastern Europe, Africa, Asia, North

America, and most significantly, from both Israel and the occupied territories of Palestine.

Israeli Peace Groups

Israeli society is not a monolithic community blindly supporting their government's policies of expansionism and repression. This is contrary to the impression often given in the Canadian press or by

the "self-proclaimed leaders" of the North American Jewish communities. In 1982, for example, over 400,000 Jews marched in the streets of Tel Aviv (out of a total Israeli population of 3.5 million), in condemnation of their government's invasion of Lebanon and its complicity in the

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FREEPORT COURT

I was happy to find rooms right on Miami beach late in August for only \$19 a night. Collins Avenue and 14th. What could be better: sand, sun and herds of lithe nymphs at every turn. So what if the kitchen had cockroaches? And, okay, the pilot light kept going out; but here I was in fun city, ready to have fun. The first come-down came when I discovered that Spanish is more prevalent than English in South Florida. So? Be cool, I told myself, you don't really look like a dumb gringo. Ah, but the nights were the worst. The part of Miami where I was staying had been invaded in years past by the Mariéltos and other assorted degenerates and criminals cast out by Castro. Fisticuffs on the street, cops

outside the hotel every night, whores on the corner by 7 p.m. and narry a dull moment. At least South Miami beach was free of the plastic culture downtown.

After working up my tan and having almost forgotten Stephen Scott's constitutional law ("the object is not to understand, but to be confused at a higher level"), I decided to hop over to lovely Freeport where the official motto is "Upward, Onwards, Together" and the unofficial one "No Problem Man". The halfhour flight in a nine-seater Cessna followed the beach north and then hit out east. I could touch both sides of the plant by stretching out my hands.

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Geneva Conference

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horrible massacres at Sabra and Chatilla.

In Geneva I met a wide variety of these Israeli peace activists. Among the organizations were such as the Israeli Council for Israeli-Palestinian Peace (2 Knesset members), Democratic Front For Peace and Equality (4 members of the Knesset), Israeli League for Human Rights, New Direction (Sephardic Jewish community), and the Democratic Women's Organization. Each of them recognized that the key to a just and lasting peace in the Middle East is the recognition of the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people. This includes the creation of an independent Palestinian state on the now-occupied West Bank, Gaza and Jerusalem. Dr. Joseph Algazy (League for Human Rights), in his moving address to the conference said:

"The Israeli-Palestinian conflict, has cost till today a very high price of blood and resources, has left behind widows and orphans and brought pain and torment to a lot of people...Till all parties will be convinced that there is no choice but peace I shall continue, together with my colleagues in Israel, to fight for human rights as collective and individual as to fight against the camp of war and hatred, to consolidate the camp of peace inside Israel."

Maxim Ghilan (International Jewish Peace Union) added:

"The first and foremost struggle just now is that leading to the creation of a Palestinian national state in the West Bank and Gaza. And it is up to us,

democratic and progressive Jews and Israelis, to mobilize our efforts in this direction. For whoever controls the destiny of another people cannot remain free."

These sentiments did not go unnoticed by the Palestinians present. Shafik el Houte (executive council PLO) extended his solidarity to them by telling the delegates:

"These courageous men and women in Israel who are campaigning for peace represent a pioneering generation of Israeli people. These people need your support as much as the PLO needs your support. They face harassment and threats which we understand... It is ironic that those who strive for war are deemed heroes while those who strive for peace are not so considered."

Palestinian Situation Deteriorates

Palestinian delegates travelled to the conference at considerable personal risk. Raja Shehadeh, from the occupied West Bank city of Ramallah and a founding member of Law in the Service of Man (a West Bank legal aid organization) described the ruthless policies of land annexations which continue unabated. Although only 4% of the West Bank population are Israeli settlers, some 40% of the land has been annexed by them. A variety of measures are used to discourage the Palestinian population from remaining free from violent repression (including the universally condemned practice of "collective punishment") to more subtle but no less effective measures. But routes are rerouted from Palestinian population centres, scarce water resources diverted, and century-old olive orchards are

bulldozed for Israeli settlements or military highways.

Despite the understandable bitterness towards Israel, many Palestinians are willing to live in peace with Israel if only they were given the freedom to their own land. Anwar Nusseibeh (Chairman of the Jerusalem Electric Co.) remarked:

"The alternative to debate is violence and by all evidence violence compounds the problem. We need peace to eliminate the nightmare of occupations and the indignity of refugee camps."

International Peace Petition Adopted

At the closing session, delegates strongly supported the convening of a U.N. International Peace Conference on the Middle East. It was seen as essential that the conference be inclusive and be attended by the representatives of Israel and the PLO, those Arab states party to the conflict and both the United States and USSR. Just as the UN General Assembly resolutions recognize the right of both Israelis and Palestinians to self-determination and statehood, these principles were seen as the basis for any negotiated peace.

To support this proposed conference and to bring it to the attention of peoples throughout the world, a decision to launch a campaign to collect millions of signatures (proposed by the International Jewish peace Union) through an international petition was adopted. Montreal's Le Regroupement Pour Un Dialogue Israel-Palestine then proposed that the petition would be launched

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Geneva Conference

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simultaneously throughout the world on November 29, 1984 as the UN Day of International Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

Some Personal Reflections After Geneva

When I left for Geneva I was apprehensive. On the one hand the fanatic Kahane had just been elected to the Israeli Knesset. On the other hand I, as an Israeli born Jew, worried how the legitimate aspirations of my people were going to be seen against the history of the persecutions committed against the Palestinian people. I left Geneva reassured on two levels: first, that the fanatics in Israel represent just one side of the coin, and the progressive forces for peace the other. Second, the international community which has been active in promoting Palestinian rights, including the PLO recognize this fact and do not deny Israel's right to exist. This, however, cannot be affirmed at the expense of another people.

Only a peaceful solution, based on justice to the Palestinian people and mutual recognition of both peoples as a two-state solution can bring about a resolution to the fighting. The tragedy is that until men like Dr. Algazy and Raja Shehadeh are given a chance to sit down and negotiate their futures, many more mothers and fathers will bury sons and daughters before their time. As a father of two boys, I can understand no greater senseless waste than that.

Censorwatch Presents EVERY GOOD BOY DESERVES FAVOUR

a play by Tom Stoppard, with music (live) by André Previn as Premier in Montreal, if not in Canada.

A play about madness and politics is not an unusual mixture, but a sure-fire source of good wry humour. A political prisoner, whose crime was that his friend's friend was a dissident, is

put in a Soviet mental hospital with a musical looney whose imaginary orchestra plays day and night, and accompanies conversations. Black humour abounds, in true Stoppard Fashion.

Jan. 22-26, 8:00 p.m.
Players' Theatre, 3480
McTavish
Admissions: \$3.50

Freeport Court Cont'd from p. 1

Downtown Freeport is a large shopping centre with local government offices on the north side. Here one finds the town's magistrates court. A small room with six church pews, a dish for the prosecutor, a platform for the judge and a witness box. Surprisingly, court was in session daily with a varied docket.

On my first attendance, sitting discretely at the back in bermuda shorts and short-sleeved shirt, I am comfortable and ready to be entertained by the local drama. The judge enters from a side door and we all rise as I was the only visitor. Upon seeing me his Honour asks the Crown prosecutor (the local police chief) who I am. This gentleman, agleam in a starched uniform with polished buttons and to whom I had just introduced myself, replies to the judge that I am a lawyer from Canada. The accused is standing in the docket, the court recorder is filing her nails and the judge says: "Court is adjourned while I re-

ceive this learned colleague in my chambers." I knew I should have shaved that day. His honour was a most amicable person and not at all displeased to discover that I was a law student.

We rapped about Canada's new constitution, about the major problems in the Bahamas (drug trafficking and the secrecy of offshore banking activities) and his own experiences while reading law in England. He recalled that in the year when he wrote the Bar entrance exam in London, 82% of the candidates failed. We exchanged cards and returned to the courtroom.

The prisoner slumped a little more. The prosecutor spoke to a subordinate. God save the Queen, Court was once more in session. The accused was a young man of 18 charged with breaking and entering into several stores. How did he plead? "Not guilty". Curiously then without benefit of counsel he proceeded to cross-examine witnesses called by the Crown. His questioning related to

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LETTER

Dear fellow Quid reader,

If you are like most law students, you probably suffer from having too much free time on your hands. Aside from sitting through a couple of hours of classes and doing a few minutes' daily reading, there really is not that much to do. Sure, you might dabble in Legal Aid or the Law Journal or faculty politics to fill up some of your spare time, or you might simply hang around the Pit and soak up the ambiance, but even that usually is not enough.

If you find that you have a couple of hours of spare time every week, perhaps this might interest you. For several years there has been a McGill Student Volunteer Program at the Montréal Neurological Institute. The Neuro is a 135-bed acute and chronic care hospital that has pioneered research into and treatment of various neurological disorders, primarily epilepsy. Patients come to the Neuro from all over the world, drawn by its reputation. The problem is that because of the complexity of their illnesses patients spend an average of two months in the hospital. Much of this time is spent waiting -- waiting for tests, waiting for treatment, waiting for recuperation and discharge -- and as a result the patients suffer acutely from boredom.

Last semester well over 100 McGill students participated in the Volunteer Programme. Except for Law, Management and Medicine, virtually all faculties are represented by volunteers. The work is undemanding and yet very rewarding; it

simply requires spending two hours per week visiting patients and providing them with much-needed company.

If you are interested in the Volunteer Programme, you can find out more by attending a general information meeting on Monday, January 21st, at 4:30 p.m. in the Douglas Hall residence (3851 University St., above Pine Ave.). Also, feel free to phone me at 288-0463 or to leave a note in the mailbox at Student Affairs asking me to phone you.

Yours Sincerely,
John Hale
LL.B. II
Volunteer Programme
Coordinator

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quality and relevance one would expect of a man with a drug addiction and previous arrest record.

Accused: Where did you find me Officer?

Witness (a police officer): I found you asleep next to a broken store window.

Accused: What was I doing there Officer?

Witness: You were sleeping.

Accused: (after some hesitation): Why was I sleeping there?

Witness: I don't know.

The accused, at a loss for further incisive interrogation, states "No further questions your Honour".

Verdict: Guilty: Eighteen months with hard labour.

Before sentencing, the judge summed up the law and concluded that the Crown had proved its case beyond a reasonable doubt.

The following day was taken up by in camera family court cases so I toured the island, stopping off at the little settlement of Eight Mile Rock. Here the Magistrate's Court is tended by the same person who runs the Post Office. And since no cases were to be held there that day she gave me the key to the court house door. Here the judicial forum was even more modest, without even the noisy air conditioner from which we benefited in the island capital. How small and dusty this court looked to my eyes! Barely ten feet by twelve, with a raised dais for the judge at the front. A little window, without glass, let in the sultry Caribbean air and the flies. I stood by the magistrate's chair and wondered what resounding common law precedents had thundered forth from this distant court. How many times had the guilty been sentenced for their errant ways? How many times the innocent? Through the window came the island beat -- the sounds of Reggae. Beside the dais I noticed a pile of documents in disarray and leafed through them -- old wills, zoning plans, records of who drove what type of car and who resided where. Nowhere was there a judgment by Denning or some record of judicial musings upon the parade of litigants who must have passed over the years through these doors. And out again -- into what future.

The next day back in Freeport, dressed smartly and with serious demeanor I returned to the main court. Today was another day reserved for criminal proceedings and I watched as the prisoner struggled with his inexperience, ignorance and perhaps fear of the ju-

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PLACEMENT CENTER

Ontario

The updated articling vacancy lists (November 23 and January/85) as prepared by the Bar Admission people at Osgoode Hall is now posted in the Placement Centre. Students interested in articling in **Ontario** should check these revised lists as they are posted.

Articling Information brochures have been received from the firms of McMaster & Meighen, Campbell, Godfrey & Lewtas, Fraser & Beatty and are posted in the Centre.

Osler Hoskin & Harcourt, **P.O. Box 50, First Canadian Place, Toronto, Canada, M5X 1B8** invite applications for summer positions by mid-January, 1985. This firm anticipates hiring four or five summer students, generally those who have completed second year immediately before the summer but also encourage first year students to apply. The articling booklet is available for perusal in the Admissions Office.

Brown & Forbes, **Suite 201, 73 Richmond Street West, Toronto, Ontario M5H 1Z4** (1 articling position available)

Giesbrecht, Griffin, **60 College Street, Kitchener, Ontario N2H 5A1** (refer to notice in Centre).

Barriger & Oyen are interested in articling students and also summer students. Law students with science or engineering backgrounds should contact this firm directly at Barriger & Oyen, **Suite 700, The National Building, 130 Slater Street, Ottawa, Canada, K1P 6E2.**

The law offices of Brian A. Grosman, Q.C. has an opening for an articling student commencing June 1985. Please address your enquiries to Norman Grosman, **Suite 1400, Box 14, 20 Queen Street West, Toronto, Ontario, M5H 2V3** or telephone 416-593-1253.

The Department of Justice Canada is conducting its annual recruitment program for its 1986 civil law articling student positions. Applications for this are available in the Admissions Office.

Quebec

Professor R. St. J. Macdonald, Q.C. of the Faculty of Law, Dalhousie University, is seeking a student research assistant to carry out some work here at McGill on the "international law references" in the work of the 19th century Quebec jurist François-Maximilien Bibaud (1823-1887). Applicants should be third year students, preferably have taken at least an introductory course in Public International Law and be able to read and understand French. Interested students should speak to Professor Brierley regarding this (refer to notice in Centre).

Gascon, Gibson & Larose, **2055 Peel Street, Suite 225, Montreal, Quebec, H3A 1V4** is interested in engaging the services of a student who has completed his/her third year for a position as a summer student in 1985. The candidate must be available from May 15th to August 15th and have an aptitude for commercial, corporate and civil law. Interested students should send their

c.v. to Me Sander H. Gibson of Gascon, Gibson & Larose.

Vancouver

The firm of Fraser, Gifford anticipates hiring five (5) articling students and invite resumes in May, 1985. Interviews will likely commence August 19. Resumes should be directed to Mr. Allan J. Coombe, Fraser Gifford, **P.O. Box 49360, 1055 Dunsmuir Street, Vancouver, B.C. V7X 1P2.**

A copy of the current articling guidelines as posted by the Vancouver Bar Associations is now posted in the Placement Centre. Students contemplating seeking articles in the Vancouver area should consult these guidelines.

Guild, Yule, Schmitt, Lane, Sullivan & Mackenzie invite interested students to send resumes to their firm for the 1986-87 articling period. Applicants should direct their enquiries to Mr. Mark M. Moseley of this firm at **16th Floor, One Bentall Centre, 505 Burrard Street, Vancouver, B.C., V7X 1C9.** This firm's articling fact sheet is available for perusal in the Admissions Office.

Calgary

Code Hunter will be hiring eight students for articling positions commencing in the summer of 1986. Students seeking an interview in Calgary should send a copy of their C.V. to Ms. Barb Perin, Code Hunter, **Suite 1900, 736 6th Avenue, S.W., Calgary, Alberta, T2P 3W1** before the date of their interview.

Mr. Stephen Halperin of the firm of Burnet, Duckworth & Palmar will be

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Placement Centre Cont'd from p. 5

conducting interviews of prospective articling students in the Placement Centre, Tuesday, January 22. Coordination of Mr. Halperin's visit is being conducted by Mrs. Higgins and students seeking an interview should request same and submit their C.V.'s as soon as possible to the Admissions Office. A notice to this effect is posted in the Centre.

Should further information be required in respect to any of the above or the notices placed in the Placement Centre, room 109 of OCDH, please see Mr. André Lemieux, Director, Admissions, Scholarships & Placement of Mrs. Suzanne Higgins, Admissions Coordinator who are more than willing to provide whatever assistance possible.

La petite illusion

par Louise Comtois

L'histoire commence quelque part en décembre. Le décor s'impose de lui-même: neige, froid, glace. Les personnages: des étudiants qui ne sont plus que l'ombre d'eux-mêmes, des zombies, et de l'autre côté parce qu'il y a toujours un autre côté, des automobilistes en colère qui n'arrivent plus à se garer dans l'enceinte de la faculté qui leur est pourtant réservée.

L'histoire continue: une petite note sur les babilards pour dire, à qui veut bien le lire, que bientôt l'aire de stationnement à l'entrée sera réservée aux détenteurs de permis. Jusqu'à là, nous sommes d'accord.

Mais voilà que l'histoire devient cruelle:

sans plus d'avertissement, sans attendre de voir si nous allons nous conformer, une horrible barrière jaune et noire, genre entrée de stationnements payants et regard n'entre pas qui veut s'est installée là, bien cadenassée; agressive. Il ne nous reste plus à nous pauvres piétons, qu'à contourner les socles de ciment qui la supportent, en faisant bien attention d'éviter la boue, le banc de neige et le petit rond de glace sur lequel on tombe inmanquablement.

La stratégie, il faut bien le remarquer, a été savamment étudiée. Les étudiants, tout absorbés qu'ils sont par l'angoisse et le stress de la fin de session ne remarqueront pas. En tout cas, ils ne prendront pas la peine de manifester leur désapprobation, encore moins d'écrire un "papier" sur le sujet.

Et puis revirement: lundi matin, 7 janvier, la barrière, est ouverte. Bienvenue à la faculté de droit ... Ont-ils eu peur que, trouvant la barrière fermée, on ne rebrousse chemin? Auraient-ils compris?

Erreur mon cher Watson. Vous avez sous-estimé l'adversaire. Vendredi 11 janvier, la barrière est fermée, cadenassée, horrible et agressive. L'illusion n'aura duré que quelques jours. Dommage.

Erratum

Last week's issue was dated November 28th, 1984. It should have read January 9th, 1985. Quid (well... Pearl) regrets the error and apologizes for any time warp effect this might have had.

Freeport Court Cont'd from p. 4

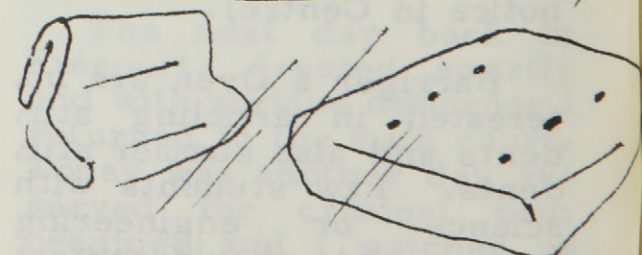
dicial drama in which he was immersed. Again without the benefit of counsel. Again the plaintive conclusion: "No further questions your Honour". The charge was shoplifting. There were witnesses. The sentence for this repeat offence: twelve months with hard labour. Another one up the river.

The judge, when summing up, expressed understanding of the difficulties which the prisoner had experienced questioning witnesses. Looking me in the eye he said: "Indeed, even lawyers often have poorly developed cross-examination skills, because they never bother to attend court." There are lawyers, then, in the Bahamas. Perhaps they are all working for those offshore banks, scrambling furiously to launder money and help their clients evade taxes. The Bahamas though are relatively well off when compared to less happy lands further south. But that tale will keep for another day.

Stephen Butt
BCL II

COMIC INTERPRE- TATION

CFUTONIA



VENTE DE
QUASI DES LITS